

ABILENE- OMITAMA SISTER CITY BOARD MINUTES FOR December 12, 2019

The Abilene Omitama sister city board meeting was called to order by Claire Anderson at 6:22 pm at the Mr. K's Farmhouse. The following board members were also in attendance: Corina Ryland, Scott Anderson, Andrea Taylor, Kevin Unruh, Audrey Corbett, Barb and Rick Johnson and Jerry Rankin. Friends, Mary Zey and Marcus Rothchild, city liaison were absent.

Approval of Agenda: Andrea moved to approve the agenda and Barb seconded with the following changes: change of time from 7pm to 6pm and payment of sister city under item B under the financial report. All in favor.

Approval of November minutes: Scott moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Rick. All in favor with following corrections: spoke not spoken, Brad Anderson had an extra r and "Marcus will ask Lon Shrader Marcus". (Delete last Marcus.)

Comments and correspondence:

Jerry met with Noibara in November while he was in Japan and on November 24 Jerry met with the delegates from the summer who were getting ready for the Omitama International Day celebration. Some of the Noibara did a line dance as part of Omitama's International Day. There are new members in the Noilbara group including the three who came here in September 2017. They are working on the 40th anniversary (2024) We need to plan something. Possibly bring the Minori Diako group back to Abilene.

The thank you letter was sent to the Mayor but did not include the mayor's signature. Since we forgot to thank for the actual gift, Claire suggested that our mayor, Tim, could send a holiday greeting and thank you. She shared a draft and Jerry will take it to Tim so that he can send it with the official city letter head. Corina got a letter from Hiromi after her students sent more letters:

"Thank you very much for the letters! My students were very happy to get them! Some students has started to read them. I think they need to take much time to replay. The reason why some classes of my school were shut down due to the flu. I think you will be very surprised to hear that. I know there is no system which school is shut down cause of the flu in U.S. In Japan, it is written in row of school education. The flu is epidemic in Japan now. It is going around during January, but it is earlier this year. The first area was epidemic from the middle of November! Is the flu going around you or Abiline?"

Financial report: Kevin shared that we have had no changes. Jerry turned in a receipt for treats for Eisenhower Japan club. Andrea moved that we accept it and pay the following bills: \$600 deposit for the February drum group, Sister city international dues of \$310 and tonight's dinner. Rick seconded and all were in favor. Corina moved to approve the financial report. Andrea seconded and all in favor.

Friends: Mary was absent.

Japan Club: Jerry has an end of the year Christmas meeting/ party with 4th and 5th graders tomorrow. Jerry will also be presenting at McKinley about Christmas in Japan. He will continue Japan club in 2020.

Applications: Jerry handed out 12 applications to the high school students for the trip to Japan. He will email the application to Corina to share with the 8th graders. The trip is going to be from the 15th to the 28th of July.

Host family: There was no interest in hosting the student in Solomon. Corina will let Wendi know.

Training in Salina: It is scheduled for Tuesday the 17th of December. It is not a good time for any of us to go. We can watch it online at a later board meeting.

Ideas for the Salina January event: Ask the delegates to talk, have Barb demonstrate and teach a dance. It is on a Thursday at Salina Arts Center.

Abilene event: Barb's group will come on the 29th at the high school. It will be from 2-4 pm. We'll have drummers, dancers, and Barb's doll display. We'll ask for donations to the Johnson memorial that helps fund trips to Japan.

Gretchen from Salina Arts Center said we could advertise at the Salina Arts Center. Jerry will ask his daughter, Elizabeth Rankin to make a poster and we will ask Country Mart; M and M and Lumber House to advertise on their signs. Maybe Marcus can ask the Chamber to put it in their advertising and website.

Sister City signage on the highway: We still need to go through KDOT. Marcus was absent.

Andrea moved that we approve the Slate of officers for 2020:

President: Claire Anderson

Vice President: Barb Johnson

Secretary: Corina Ryland

Treasurer: Kevin Unruh Jerry seconded. All in favor (except Claire : >)

Jerry will step off the board in the spring. Mary Zey is interested in replacing him. Mary suggested that Heather replace her position as Friends treasurer. Jerry will trade Mary if Heather says no.

Kevin scheduled us in the library for the 2nd Tuesday at 6pm for the 2020 year. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at Abilene Public library at 6:00pm. Andrea moved we adjourn, and Jerry seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Secretary,
Corina Ryland